

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SCCT-01 SY-05 NEA-10 /075 W
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R 071234Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4982

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, HU, US

SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN PRESS COMMENT ON KILLING OF RICHARD WELCH

1. MAGYAR HIRLAP, SEMI-OFFICIAL DAILY OF GOH, CARRIED SIGNED ARTICLE JAN 4 CONCERNING CIA AND KILLING IN ATHENS OF RICHARD WELCH. WHILE BASICALLY AN ATTACK AGAINST CIA OFFICIALS, ARTICLE ENDS UP BY CRITICIZING VIOLENT ACTS OF THIS TYPE.

2. GYORGY HALASZ, MAGYAR HIRLAP COLUMNIST, DEVOTES MOST OF ARTICLE TO CONDEMNING CIA FOR ALLEGED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS. SAYS CIA AGENTS "DO NOT KILL ANYONE OR DIRTY THEIR HANDS DIRECTLY" BUT USE OTHERS FOR THESE TASKS. HALASZ DISCUSSES KILLING OF GREEK STUDENTS BY FORMER MILITARY JUNTA, IMPLYING THAT CIA WAS ALSO INVOLVED.

3. ARTICLE CONCLUDES, HOWEVER, THAT "ISOLATED ANARCHIST ACTIONS THEMSELVES CANNOT CHANGE THOSE BASIC CIRCUMSTANCES
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WHICH MAKE POSSIBLE TERRIBLE ACTIVITIES OF WELCH-LIKE

PEOPLE". "VIOLENCE FROM BOTH SIDES", IT SAYS, "CAN ONLY BRING ABOUT MORE VIOLENCE", ADDING THAT WELCH WILL MERELY BE REPLACED AND CIA WILL REMAIN WHAT IT WAS BEFORE.

4. COMMENT: ARTICLE IS CONSISTENT WITH GOH PUBLIC POSITION ON TERRORISM DIRECTED AGAINST FOREIGN OFFICIALS. CONDENA-TION OF TERRORIST ACTS, HOWEVER, HAVE NOT BEEN SO STRONG AND UNEQUIVOCAL GENERALLY THAT IT IS OFFENSIVE TO RADICAL LEFTISTS, E.G. ARABS. HUNGARIAN VIEW IS THAT TERRORISM IS DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD AND RECOGNIZE THAT ACTS COMMITTED BY EXTREME RADICAL GROUPS CAN CAUSE SERIOUS BACKLASH AGAINST ALL LEFTIST ELEMENTS, INCLUDING COMMUNISTS. AFTER ALL, BOTH BEL KUN AND MATYAS ROKOSI WERE TERRORISTS AND WHAT DID THEIR POLICIES PRODUCE? TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF HORTHY AND 1956. MCAULIFFE

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